Amelia Smith

Wiki Post #7

3/20/12

*Three Cups of Tea*

By: Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin

**Summary:**

When Greg returns to America after a long trip he finds out that Marina has started a relationship with another man. He is hurt and struggles to deal with the break-up. He is also worried about building the bridge and if he is even going to be able to make it happen. After talking to an old acquaintance who reached the summit of K2, he decides to call Hoerni to see if he is able to help fund the bridge. Back in Pakistan, he learns a lot more about the culture of the people. He is surprised to learn that the men have short relationships with many women even though they are married and that his unmarried friend, Twaha, has sex with widows in the village. Greg accompanies some of the men on a hunting trip and he realizes how difficult their lives are and how precious this meat is to them. They all return and the whole village shares the meal. Construction on the bridge reaches a close, which is an exciting moment for the entire village.

Greg goes back to his job working in a hospital in California. He runs into Marina again because she wants him back, but Greg knows it’s not what he needs and rejects her. He meets up with the man that helped fund the bridge and attends a dinner with him. At the dinner he meets a woman, Tara, whom he is immediately attracted to. They start a relationship and they both know that they are perfect for each other. They get married after only a couple days. Greg tries to spend as much time with her as he can by continuously postponing his flights, but eventually he has to return.

When he gets back to Pakistan he becomes frustrated because he has lost some of his supplies and there hasn’t been much progress made on the bridge. Haji Ali explains that they didn’t want to hire workers and that they have decided to do it themselves to save money. They aren’t worried about how long it will take. Greg learns more and more about their religion when he attends a mosque for the first time. It makes him feel more in touch with the village he is working with. When he flies back home he and Tara visit Hoerni and he explains his idea of creating many schools in many areas. He suggests starting a foundation and making Greg in charge of it. It is a lot to take on, but Greg wants to do it since Hoerni is the one who gave him the money to make it possible. When Tara becomes pregnant they move to Montana to create a better living environment for the child.

The village men become irritated with Greg because he is dominating too much and is rushing everyone. Haji Ali explains this to him and he takes a back seat. They have gone a long time without a school and they don’t want to rush the process. Greg tries to look for another site for a school, but he is foolish and goes alone and gets captured. Thankfully they realize his intent and release him after eight days, but it puts his life into perspective. He goes home to his wife who has been waiting for him and soon their daughter is born. Greg learns that Hoerni has become ill and he wants to let him see pictures of the school before he dies. He is able to get the picture to him while he is in the hospital, so he sees the picture before he dies. Greg is proud of his accomplishments but knows there is a lot more that lies ahead.

**Analysis:**

I think this section of the book dragged on a little bit. There wasn’t much action and there wasn’t much progress made. I feel like it was basically the same things that were told in the first part of the book. While I didn’t like it as much, I think that this part is necessary for the big events that might be coming in the next part of the book. I think the expansion of schools will be a huge part and I also think there is going to be a sad time when Greg has to leave the village. Maybe he decides to stay there for a long time, or maybe he makes frequent visits. But my prediction is that he will live permanently in Montana and there will be an emotional departure. I think this section of the book does a good job of setting up for the next part. There are the questions still lingering such as, Will he be able to promote his organization? Will there be others who oppose his charity? Where will he build more schools? These kinds of questions make you want to keep reading to find out what will happen.

Also, this part shows what a true hero Greg Mortenson is. After being trapped for eight days he still had good spirits the entire time and he was determined to try to find other places to build schools. He doesn’t give up on his wife even when he has a huge responsibility over in Pakistan and he manages to make their relationship work. Despite all the troubles and setbacks he has endured, he does the most that he can for Korphe. He also doesn’t let his personal life affect his work. It is a lot of work and stress to put on one person’s shoulders, but Greg takes it all in stride. He knows that if he doesn’t help nobody else will and he takes it upon himself to make it happen.

**Application:**

In this section of the book it really shows how human Greg is. When reading a story like this one it’s easy to think that he is rich or that he just smarter or he has better opportunities. But in reality he doesn’t. He faces many struggles to get where he is and it takes him a long time. Just like everyone else in the world he has relationship problems. He thought that he loved Marina but it turned out that she wasn’t the woman for him. Not many people go through life without having issues in their love life. It’s something that everyone goes through. Despite having to be a role model for the village and someone that they look up to, he goes through his own struggles. No one is exempt from harsh times in their life. Not only does Mortenson relate to these issues, but so do the village people in Korphe. When he is talking to his friend he learns about the customs of the people there. Yes, there are marriages in America and in Pakistan, but the customs are so very different. In Pakistan it is a sad time for the bride because she may never see her family again.

Also, you can see how Americans can learn from the people in Korphe. When Greg is becoming frustrated with the amount of time it is taking, Haji Ali is completely relaxed. “Haji Ali taught me to share three cups of tea, to slow down and make building relationships as important as building projects. He taught me that I had more to learn from the people I work with than I could ever hope to teach them” (pg. 150). This quote demonstrates how people, especially Americans, tend to forget about the most important things in life. We throw relationships and relaxation and quality, meaningful time out the window because we are too busy doing other important things. We think the goal in life is to accomplish everything as quick as possible so we can move on to the next thing. There is definitely something to be learned from people who simply live their lives as it comes to them, day by day. It shows that the manner in which you life greatly depends on the environment where you come from.